

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

2157 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, D.C.

May 12, 1965

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Honorable Robert S. McNamara
 Secretary of Defense
 Department of Defense
 Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Committee on Government Operations, House of Representatives, is now conducting an inquiry into Federal agency operations involving possible invasion of privacy. The initial hearings are scheduled to begin next month. I have been designated as Chairman of this special inquiry.

One of the matters which concern us greatly is the use of written psychological questionnaires or personality tests on Government employees and applicants. It is our understanding that your Department has been involved in such an activity.

In conjunction with our inquiry, we would appreciate it very much if you could furnish to us detailed information on the cost and number of any such tests given your employees or job applicants over the past two years. Blank copies of the test forms should be included. Also, any regulations or other departmental memoranda governing the overall subject would be most helpful.

We request that you please let us have your response by May 20th.

Enclosed are copies of two speeches I made on the House floor relating to this subject. They discuss recent actions by the Department of State and Export-Import Bank in regard to psychological testing. I think you might find them of interest.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

CORNELIUS E. GALLAGHER

Enclosures

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(POLYGRAPHS)

WASHINGTON--REP. CORNELIUS GALLAGHER, D-N.J., THE MAN WHO SPARKED A CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION OF GOVERNMENT LIE DETECTION, TODAY INTRODUCED LEGISLATION THAT WOULD VIRTUALLY PROHIBIT THE USE OF POLYGRAPHS BY FEDERAL AGENCIES.

GALLAGHER'S BILL WOULD BAR THE ACQUISITION OR EMPLOYMENT OF THE MACHINE UNLESS THE SECRETARY OF A DEPARTMENT OR THE HEAD OF AN AGENCY PERSONALLY AUTHORIZED IT IN EACH INSTANCE ON THE GROUND THAT IT WOULD BE "OF EXTRAORDINARY NECESSITY IN PROTECTING THE NATIONAL INTEREST."

7/15--GE937A